

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the present application. Applicants' Attorney appreciates notification of allowed Claims 7-21 and allowable subject matter in Claims 4-6. However, Applicants' Attorney believes that Claims 1-21, as currently amended, are in condition for allowance. The title has been amended to spell out the abbreviated term, "LED."

Objections

Examiner has objected to Claims 1-21 for abbreviating the term light emitting diode with "LED" and requested that this term be changed to what it refers. Claims 1-11 and 17-21 are currently amended in response to Examiner's rejection. Therefore, Applicants' Attorney requests that these objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al. (U.S. Patent 6,966,685). Applicants' Attorney respectfully traverses Examiner on this ground for rejection.

Li et al. teaches a light spreader providing a uniform light emission pattern there around. The light spreader has an outer cylindrical surface with facets fully surrounding the outer surface wherein the outer cylindrical surface acts as both an optical path conversion surface and a light emitting surface. This configuration is taught as follows and as shown in the FIGs. in Li et al.

An object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved illumination system including a light guide providing a *uniform, non-directional, axially extending light emission pattern*. Li et al., col. 2, lns. 6-9.

The exterior surface 22 of the light distribution cylinder 10 is divided into a sequence of progressively smaller diameter *cylindrical steps* 14. The light distribution cylinder 10 has longitudinal ends 12 at a first diameter D1. As the

light distribution cylinder 10 progresses away from each end 12, subsequent steps 14 have smaller diameters D2, D3. The exemplary light distribution cylinder 10 illustrated in FIG. 1 includes a sequence of three *steps 14 of progressively smaller diameter* from one end 12 to the center 24. The middle step 14 is centered on the center 24 of the cylinder 10. Li et al., col. 2, lns 54-65.

Applicant is currently claiming, in Claim 1, a light emitting diode light spreader comprising a series of partial cylindrical lengths interposed with partial frustoconical lengths forming an elongated member having a rounded surface and a light emitting surface, said light emitting surface being substantially smooth. Li et al. does not disclose a light spreader having two distinct surfaces, one being a light emitting surface which is substantially smooth. Rather, Li et al. teaches an outer surface being faceted completely around.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 and therefore has the limitations thereof through claim dependency. Since Li et al. fails to disclose the presently claimed light spreader, Applicants' Attorney respectfully requests these rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al. (U.S. Patent 6,966,685) in view of Chinniah et al. (US 2003/0235046). Applicants' Attorney respectfully traverses Examiner on this ground for rejection.

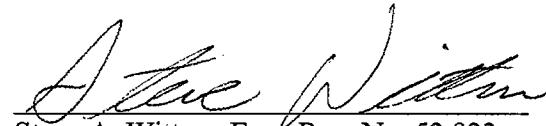
Claim 3 depends from amended Claim 1 and hence has the limitations thereof. There is no teaching or suggestion in either Li et al. or Chinniah et al. to provide a light emitting diode light spreader having a substantially smooth light emitting surface and a rounded surface having a reflective material as claimed in Claim 3. Therefore, Applicants' Attorney respectfully requests these rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants' Attorney asserts that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Applicants' Attorney therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the pending claims. However, if the Examiner believes there are other unresolved issues in this case, Applicants' Attorney of record would appreciate a call at (502) 584-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

MIDDLETON REUTLINGER

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steve A. Witters", written over a horizontal line.

Steve A. Witters, Esq., Reg. No. 53,923
2500 Brown & Williamson Tower
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 584-1135 phone
(502) 561-0442 fax
switters@midtreut.com